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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 8, 2011, at 10 a.m.

Senate

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2011

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, father of us all, continue to guide our lawmakers during these challenging times. Infuse them with wisdom and energy so that they will not become discouraged by what sometimes seems an impossible situation. Show them the road that will lead to a desired destination as You assure them of Your presence, love, and grace in their work. Lord, help them to defer to each other, to respect each other, so that by attitude and action they will reflect Your divine will. May they fulfill their responsibilities in ways that honor You.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 2, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HEALTH CARE REPEAL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, later today, as I noted yesterday, the Senate will have a rare opportunity. For those who have supported the health care spending bill in the past, it is an opportunity to revisit your first vote, to listen to those who have desperately been trying to get your attention, to say, yes, maybe my vote for this bill was a mistake, maybe we can do better, to listen to the small business owners who have been contacting

our offices every single day and telling us all the ways this bill keeps them from creating the jobs we need, to show you have actually noticed most Americans don't want this bill, to show you are aware more people want it repealed than do not, to show you have noticed the townhalls in your States, to show you have noticed the opposition to this bill continues to grow, to show you have noticed the Federal court rulings that show this bill is unconstitutional at its core.

It is not every day you get a second chance on a big decision after you know all the facts. This is that second chance.

For all of us who opposed the health care bill, today we reaffirm our commitment to work a little harder to get it right; we can't afford to get it wrong. But let's not anyone hide behind the preposterous talking point that repealing this bill would add to the deficit. Only in Washington would somebody claim that spending trillions of dollars on a brand new government entitlement and a massive bureaucracy to go along with it will save money.

I urge all my colleagues to move beyond party affiliation, to look at the facts alone. If everyone in this Chamber did that, we would repeal this bill right now, and then we would begin the work of achieving our common goal of delivering health care at a higher quality for lower cost. We would put in place the commonsense reforms people actually want.

We also expect a vote later today that would clear away one of the many impediments to job creation that was

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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